

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Resilience Now
Project Title:	Civil Society Engagement in and around Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda
Grant Number:	65807
CEPF Region:	Eastern Afromontane
Strategic Direction:	1 Mainstream biodiversity into wider development policies, plans and projects to deliver the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation, improved local livelihoods and economic development in priority corridors.
Grant Amount:	\$148,749.62
Project Dates:	July 01, 2015 - July 31, 2018
Date of Report:	September 27, 2018

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

ARECO was our main local partner during this project. **ARECO** facilitated the project in Rwanda, in its administrative and financial aspects. They managed **Resilience Now** local Project Manager, and managed the project funds in Rwanda. They represented the Project before the Rwandan authorities as well as before the Rwandan conservation and development actors. They also directly implemented an activity of the project: the introduction of 500 cookstoves to the cooperatives.

RDB (Rwandan Development Board), especially the staff from Nyugwe National Park, assisted the 3 trainings and 2 study trips that took place in their zone. They participated in the selection of the **ANICOs** that benefited from the “project design and proposal writing” training and their advice were followed to build the training.

WCS, **Foundation AVSI**, **Cooperatives KCHDP**, **Abahuje Amahoro**, **Union Ubwiza bwa Nyungwe**, **KAURU**, **KOACYA** have been part of the project by welcoming our beneficiaries on their project sites during the study trip, explaining the activities, solutions and techniques they developed. **Heiffer** and **Caritas Cyangugu** were involved in the project by following on site the implementation of the action plan of the beneficiaries. **Caritas Cyangugu** now manages the project of milk collection facility from **Zirarese** cooperative thanks to a **RDB** Revenue sharing funding.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

The 2 cooperatives that benefited from our workshops have improved their quality of life by implementing new solutions they learnt during the 2 workshops and study trips (for example: cow breeding in stalls, progressive terrace with fodder plantation, rainwater collection, modern beekeeping, improved cookstoves, intensive gardening, mulching, biogas production). All these solutions contributed to income generation and/ or improvement of quality of life, thus reduced their impact on natural resources. A raise of awareness toward biodiversity conservation occurred, and all members trained are now actively protecting Cyamudongo Forest.

Beside individual change of practices, in total around 28 000 USD were leveraged to contribute to the implementation of the cooperatives' common projects (milk collection facility and honey production) as well as Resilience Now's development.

The 57 ANICOs (Animateurs de Conservation) of Nyungwe NP were trained in project design and proposal writing. They are now able to build projects for biodiversity conservation and community development in Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park, in close partnership with the communities living around the park.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Communities living next to the Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park reduce their impact on natural resources, thus preserving biodiversity habitats. They improve their quality of life.	The 2 cooperatives that benefited from our workshops have improved their quality of live by implementing new solutions they've learnt during the study trips (for example: cow breeding in stalls, progressive terrace with fodder plantation, rainwater collection, modern beekeeping, improved cookstoves, intensive gardening, mulching, biogas production). All these solutions contributed to income generation and / or the improvement of quality of life, thus reducing the communities' impacts on natural resources. A raise of awareness toward biodiversity conservation occurred, and all members trained are now actively protecting Cyamudongo Forest.
Environmental actors in Rwanda have the capacity to carry out lasting projects for the Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park biodiversity conservation.	The 57 ANICOs (Animateurs de Conservation) in Nyungwe NP were trained in "Project Design and Proposal Writing". They are now able to build projects for community development and biodiversity conservation in Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park, in strong partnership with the communities living around the park. However, this impact is hard to evaluate today since no project has been implemented yet.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least 10 local best practices and technologies which reduce pressure on natural resources and alleviate poverty are identified and disseminated. The project makers implementing them are valorized: communication is made about their work.	Around 90 local practices/ projects have been identified, localized and shared to other Rwandan and international stakeholders via an Excel spreadsheet and a Google map. Among them, 10 practices have been selected because of their relevance for the 2 cooperatives trained. These projects/solutions have been visited and were part of our study trip. When possible, we communicate about their work even after the project is completed.
Two local communities living next to the Cyamudongo Forest adopt best practices or technologies in the field of agriculture, energy and income generation. The new practices or technologies both reduce their poverty and their pressure on natural resources.	The last field visits showed that most of the engagements taken by the cooperatives' members were kept. They improved their quality of life by implementing new solutions they've learnt during the study trip (cow breeding in stalls, progressive terrace with fodder plantation, rainwater collection, modern beekeeping, improved cookstoves, intensive gardening, mulching, biogas production). All these solutions contributed to income generation and/ or improvement of their quality of life. They also all reduced their pressure on natural resources.
community conservation facilitators (ANICO) of the Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park are strengthened in their capacities to work with communities in environmental sensitization and project writing.	The 57 ANICOs of Nyungwe NP were trained in "Project Design and Proposal Writing". They have learnt to design a project taking into account the local community needs, as well as to build a budget and a chronogram in order to apply for funds. They've learnt different tools for community work. They are now able to design projects for community development and biodiversity conservation in Cyamudongo Forest and Nyungwe National Park working in close partnership with the communities living around the park.
At least 4 Rwandan environmental actors are strengthened in their capacities to work with communities and know how to introduce new practices or technologies.	4 Rwandan actors (from local NGOs, the park staff and the administration of the sector) have benefited from Resilience Now 's experience about community work. They've witnessed, but also practiced and facilitated workshop activities, and were initiated to Resilience Now methodology to introduce lasting change. Chances are they will use these tools in their everyday work.

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

Our initial assumption, that our methodology for change can spread solutions that improve livelihoods, turned to be confirmed. The last field visits in July and August 2018 showed that members of the cooperatives trained have changed practices at an individual level. Very few material was provided (except for cookstoves and some beekeeping material), the solidarity between members, the use of microcredit and people's ingenuity were sufficient to produce a sustainable change in



practices. We also observed a percolation effect with the adoption of new techniques / solutions by non-direct beneficiaries (neighbors). Small successful projects were also valorized during the project by receiving visitors and through communication about their work.

Strengthening the capacity of local actors has been done through a training of the 57 ANICOs (Animateurs de Conservation) in Nyungwe NP in “Project Design and Proposal Writing”. Plus, several local conservation professionals were introduced to our methodology. However, we would need a long-term hindsight to evaluate the fundraising capacity and project implementation of the ANICOs and conservation professional.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The training received by the cooperative Zirarese led to an unexpected output: the solidarity created during the training led to the creation of the 1st health care system for cows in the country. Members trained went beyond their engagements and became pioneers!

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Mapping of best practices and technologies	1.1	Electronic spreadsheet and map	The Excel spreadsheet of "Best practices and technologies reducing pressure on natural resources in Rwanda in the field of agriculture, energy and income generation" has been completed. Done during 2nd semester 2017
1	Mapping of best practices and technologies	1.2	The spreadsheet and the map are disseminated on Resilience Now and its partners' websites and through emailing to the actors working in the field of conservation and development in Rwanda.	The map and spreadsheet have been put on Resilience Now's website. See the Excel spreadsheet and Google map: http://resilience.ngo/?page_id=2689&lang=fr They have also been shared with our local partner ARECO and sent to all the contributors in Rwanda.
2	"Solutions Worth Sharing" workshops	2.1	Two workshops; 60 members learn 10 practices or technologies	The two workshops took place during the 1st semester of 2017.
2	"Solutions Worth Sharing" workshops	2.2	Two cooperatives have drafted 2 action plans for the adoption of best practices and technologies reducing their	Zirarese (1st cooperative) action plan has been edited and shared with the authorities during the 1st semester of 2017. Kopainya (2nd cooperative) action plan has been edited and shared with the authorities in October 2017.

			pressure on natural resources near Cyamudongo Forest.	
3	Action plan implementation	3.1	Cooperatives connected to project makers, who are connected to donors; LOIs submitted	Zirarese (1st cooperative) has been awarded a grant by RDB (Rwandan Development Board) in the framework of its "Revenue Sharing" program. The project of milk collection facility will receive an amount of RWF 15 554 420 (about USD 18 000). The NGO Caritas-Cyangugu will be the implementing partner in charge of conducting the operations. Kopainya (2nd cooperative) was connected with ARECO to receive 250 improved cookstoves. It received a beekeeping training partially funded by Fondation BNP Paribas.
3	Action plan implementation	3.2	At least 500 families of each 2 cooperatives are using improved cookstoves on a regular basis.	500 cookstoves were introduced in 2017 among relatives of participants of the Resilience Now workshop (Zirarese and Kopainya cooperatives). A specific training was conducted to teach how to use properly the cookstoves.
4	Capacity building of local conservation actors	4.1	One training is drafted for ANICOs to develop their capacities in Community work (psychology of change) and Project design.	The training in "Project Design and Proposal Writing" for ANICOs has been designed and conducted in Feb, 2018. This training is focused on how to identify a problem, assess the needs, conceive the project, raise funds and apply to the Revenue Sharing Program, as well as how to implement, follow up, evaluate and communicate on the project. A day is dedicated to lessons learnt and exchanges with professionals and ANICOs from the Volcanos National Park.
4	Capacity building of local conservation actors	4.2	One training has 50 ANICOs develop their capacities in Community work (psychology of change) and Project design.	The training of the 57 Nyungwe ANICOs took place from the 5th to the 9th of February 2018.
4	Capacity building	4.3	Two study	This study tour has been cancelled, in agreement with the

	of local conservation actors		tours have 30 ANICO's learn at least 10 practices or technologies reducing the pressure on natural resources	Park authorities, because it has been decided to focus the training on Project Design and Proposal Drafting and to train all ANICOs (57). They still benefitted from peer to peer exchanges, as guest speakers from Volcano National Park (one park warden and one ANICO) made the trip in order to share their experiences.
4	Capacity building of local conservation actors	4.4	Four environmental local actors have co-facilitated workshops	Done during 1st semester 2017.
5	Management of sub-grant to ARECO	5.1	Signed sub-grant agreement between Resilience Now and ARECO	Done in November 2016.
5	Management of sub-grant to ARECO	5.2	Final technical and financial report from ARECO	The final financial and technical reports have been drafted and are attached.

Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Please find attached:

- **The action plans drafted by the cooperatives (2 action plans)**
- **The projects and solutions visited during the study trips (1 illustrated report)**
- **The outputs of the workshops for both cooperatives (mid-term field visit, 1 illustrated report)**
- **The training booklet for the “Project Design and Proposal Writing” training, that was distributed to the ANICOs.**

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

This project provided an improvement of the “Solutions worth Sharing” workshop methodology. We have improved the workshop activities by testing new tools. Some activities have disappeared and others have been created to fit best with the cooperatives' profile.

We could have involved more the park deputy wardens for the ANICOs training facilitation. Of course, the park deputy wardens had been consulted during the training design. But it's only during the training that we realized they had all planned to be present during the entire training. We could have confided them in a more active role during the training itself as they were very enthusiasts.

Regarding organizational development, this project helped us to set up administrative and financial procedures in order to manage funds in this international project. An example is the opening of a USD account in France to facilitate money transfers and limit currency change losses. Another example is the creation of a tool to follow our equipment's. This project was also the opportunity to train new volunteers among Resilience Now members.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

Our initial assumption, that our methodology for change can spread solutions that improve livelihoods, turned to be confirmed. The last field visits in July and August 2018 showed that members of cooperative trained have changed practices at an individual level. Very few materiel was provided (except for cookstoves and some beekeeping material), the solidarity between members, the use of microcredit and people's ingenuity were sufficient to produce a sustainable change in practices. We also observed a percolation effect with the adoption of new techniques/solutions by non-direct beneficiaries (neighbors).

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF



We are very grateful to the CEPF and RIT team for their trust and support. A capacity development project such as this one does not provide for spectacular result. Nonetheless, this type of work may bring great impact in the long run. We strongly believe in that! The team has been very reactive to our question and supportive for the few medications required.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$28,000.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

A Project Co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of the project)
10000 USD (Foundation BNP)

B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)
18 000 USD (Revenue Sharing)

C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of successes related to the project)

We have recently presented the honey cooperative (Union Ubwiza bwa Nyungwe) to a French private company that was interested in supporting honey production in Rwanda. To be continued...

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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